

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed on May 27, 2005, with a Request for Continued Examination for the above-mentioned application. This Amendment is submitted with a one-month extension of time, because an Amendment in response to the final Office Action was filed within two months of the final Office Action.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to the undersigned for the telephone interviews conducted subsequent to the Advisory Action. The telephone interviews included discussions of the differences between the claimed embodiments and the cited reference.

Claims 8 and 15 are amended to clarify the distinctive features of the claimed embodiments. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, and 10-20 are pending after entry of the present Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, and 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Ma et al. (U.S. Patent 5,920,725), hereinafter "Ma". For the reason put forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that Ma et al. fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claimed embodiments as recited in independent claims 1, 8, and 15.

Ma discloses a distributed application with an adaptor 80 for updating objects cataloged by a meta server 70. Meta server 70 receives change requests from a runtime update tool 76 and modifies object class definitions. *See col. 7, lines 60-66, col. 8, lines 1-6, and Figure 3.* A compiler/linker 78 compiles and links the class definitions and generates modified class objects 68. *See col. 7, lines 6-9 and Figures 3 and 5.* Object adaptor 80 sends change notifications to object caches on both server machine 90 and client 88. Server objects

82 in a server cache is notified first before client objects 72 in a client cache, and changes to a application database 64 are made first, then followed by changes to server objects 82 in a server-side application 86. Finally, client objects 72 listed in a client cache for client-side application 74 are updated. *See col. 8, lines 11-34, and Figure 5.*

In contrast, claimed embodiments of the present invention provide a JAVA platform that performs online software upgrades of a JAVA module in a middle-tier. The JAVA module has an original entity bean and an original state object. The original state object is upgraded by generating an upgraded state object using upgraded class files from a repository and transferring the state stored in the original state object to the upgraded state object, and an upgraded entity bean is created using data from the repository. However, the meta server 70 of Ma does not include an original entity bean and an original state object. Instead, the meta server 70 only performs the function of modifying object class definitions. The modified object class definitions are then stored in the meta-server's non-volatile storage 62, but not in the meta server 70. In addition, a compiler/linker 78 takes the modified class definitions and compiles as well as links the modified class definitions to generate modified class objects 68. The modified classified class objects 68 are not included in the meta server 70. The modified class objects 68 are then used to upgrade the server objects 82 in the server-application 86 and client objects 72 in the client-application 74. Thus, neither the server objects 82 nor the client objects 72 is included in the meta server 70. In addition, work flow rule 81 for processing changes in the client object 72 is included in the server-application 86, but not included in the meta server 70.

However, the JAVA module of the claims embodiments includes the original entity bean and the original state object. Since the original state object is upgraded by generating an upgraded the state object, then both the original state object and the upgraded state object are

included in the JAVA module. Thus, the original state object is upgraded in the JAVA module in the middle-tier.

Accordingly, Ma fails to disclose a JAVA module (e.g., meta server 70) that includes an original entity bean, an original state object as well as an upgraded state object. In addition, Ma also fails to disclose a JAVA module, in the middle-tier, where upgrades of the state object are performed. That is, Ma discloses an object upgrade process that includes multiple components, such as the meta server 70, the compile/linker 78, and the object adaptor 80. In addition, object upgrade is completed in the server-application 86 and the client-application 74, which are multiple applications located in multiple tiers. Accordingly, based on these differences, Ma fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claimed embodiments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma as applied to claims 15-18, and further in view of Andersson (XP-002249737), hereinafter "Andersson". Applicants respectfully traverse.


As discussed in the previous section, Ma fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claimed embodiments as recited in independent claims 1, 8, and 15. Thus, even if Ma is combined with Andersson, a proposition that the Applicants would traverse, the combination of Ma and Andersson still fails to disclose each and every limitation of dependent claims 19 and 20 to render the dependent claims obvious.

That is, even if Andersson discloses the teaching of classifying objects into state management units, a proposition that the Applicants would traverse, the combination of Ma and Andersson still fails to disclose all the limitations of claimed embodiments to render dependent claims 19 and 20 obvious.

Accordingly, after entry of the present Amendment, the application is now in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6911. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP007). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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